

**Claims:**

1. A patient support comprising:  
a frame including a head end, a foot end, and longitudinal sides  
extending therebetween;  
5 a board coupled to one of the head end and the foot end of the frame,  
the board including a curved portion on one end adjacent to one of the longitudinal  
sides of the frame;  
a deck panel coupled to the frame, the deck panel including a corner  
portion adjacent the board, the deck panel and board defining a first gap therebetween,  
10 the corner portion being elevated to converge toward the curved portion of the board  
to narrow the first gap; and  
a siderail coupled to one of the longitudinal sides of the frame, the  
siderail and the board defining a second gap therebetween, the siderail including a  
curved end portion adjacent to the board end portion to converge to narrow the second  
15 gap.
2. The patient support of claim 1, wherein the siderail and the deck panel  
define a third gap therebetween, the third gap narrowed by the curved end portion of  
the siderail and corner portion of the deck panel.
3. The patient support of claim 1, wherein the corner portion of the deck  
20 panel includes an opening.
4. The patient support of claim 1, wherein the corner portion of the deck  
panel includes a handle portion formed within the deck panel.
5. The patient support of claim 1, wherein the corner portion of the deck  
panel is elevated upwardly relative to the remainder of the deck panel.

6. The patient support of claim 1, wherein the siderail includes a coplanar section and the curved end portion is continuous with the coplanar section.

7. The patient support of claim 1, wherein the siderail has upper and lower edges defining a first height of the siderail and the curved end portion of the siderail has a second height, the first height substantially equal to the second height.

8. The patient support of claim 1, wherein the board has upper and lower edges defining a first height of the board and the curved portion of the board has a second height, the first height substantially equal to the second height.

9. A patient support comprising:  
a frame including a head end, a foot end, and longitudinal sides extending therebetween;  
a board coupled to one of the head end and the foot end of the frame;  
a siderail coupled to one of the longitudinal sides of the frame, the siderail and the board defining a first gap therebetween; and  
a deck panel coupled to the frame, the deck panel including a corner portion being adjacent to the siderail and the board, the deck panel and board defining a second gap therebetween, the deck panel and the siderail defining a third gap therebetween, the deck panel including a corner portion being elevated to converge toward the siderail and the board to narrow the second and third gaps.

10. The patient support of claim 9, wherein the corner portion is angled upwardly relative to the remainder of the deck panel.

11. The patient support of claim 9, wherein the siderail has a longitudinal axis parallel with the longitudinal sides of the of the frame, the siderail includes a transverse portion transverse to the longitudinal axis of the siderail, the transverse portion narrows the first gap.

12. The patient support of claim 9, wherein the board includes an extended portion configured to extend toward the siderail to narrow the first gap.

13. The patient support of claim 9, wherein the board includes an extended portion configured to extend toward the siderail and the siderail includes an extended  
5 portion configured to extend toward the board, the extended portions narrow the first, second, and third gaps.

14. The patient support of claim 9, wherein the corner portion of the deck panel includes a handle formed within.

15. The patient support of claim 9, wherein the ends of the frame have a  
10 first transverse axis and the board defines a second axis parallel to the transverse axis, the board includes a longitudinally extending portion perpendicular to the second axis, the longitudinally extending portion narrows the first gap.

16. A patient support comprising:  
a frame including a head end, a foot end, and longitudinal sides  
15 extending therebetween;  
a board coupled to one of the head end and the foot end of the frame;  
a deck panel coupled to the frame, the deck panel including a corner portion adjacent one of the head end and the foot end of the frame, the deck panel and the board defining a first gap therebetween; and  
20 a siderail coupled to one of the longitudinal sides of the frame, the siderail including longitudinally spaced apart ends, the siderail and the board defining a second gap therebetween, the siderail and the deck panel defining a third gap therebetween;

a first curved portion coupled to at least one of the board, deck panel,  
25 and the siderail, the first curved portion configured to narrow one of the first, second,

and third gaps; and

a second curved portion coupled to at least one of the board, deck panel, and the siderail, the second portion configured to narrow one of the first, second, and third gaps.

5           17.    The patient support of claim 16, wherein the deck panel includes a substantially coplanar portion and the corner portion is raised relative to the substantially coplanar portion.

          18.    The patient support of claim 16, further comprising a third curved portion coupled to one of the board, deck panel, and the siderail, the third portion  
10 narrows at least one of the first, second, and third gaps.

          19.    The patient support of claim 16, wherein the board is removably coupled the frame.

          20.    The patient support of claim 16, wherein an opening is formed within the corner portion of the deck panel.

15           21.    A patient support comprising:

a bedframe;

a mattress; and

a wheel assembly including a wheel pivotably coupled to the bedframe and a wheel position holder, the wheel position holder including a cam member and a  
20 cam surface including a sinusoidal profile configured to limit pivoting movement of the wheel.

          22.    The patient support of claim 21, further including a biaser configured to bias the wheel into contact with a floor surface.

          23.    The patient support of claim 21, wherein the cam surface is  
25 substantially circular.

24. The patient support of claim 21, wherein the cam surface includes a pair of raised surfaces and a pair of lowered surfaces.

25. The patient support of claim 21, wherein the wheel assembly includes a vertical axis and the wheel position holder limits the pivoting moment of the wheel to  
5 four positions about the vertical axis of the wheel assembly.

26. The patient support of claim 25, wherein the four positions are 90° apart.

27. The patient support of claim 21, wherein the bed frame is supported on a floor surface by a plurality of wheels.

10 28. The patient support of claim 21, wherein the bed frame includes first and second longitudinally spaced apart ends and the wheel assembly is coupled to the bed frame at a position between the first and second ends.

29. The patient support of claim 28, wherein the wheel assembly is coupled to the bed frame at a midpoint between the first and second longitudinally  
15 spaced apart ends.

30. The patient support of claim 21, wherein the wheel assembly includes a spring configured to bias the cam into engagement with the cam surface.

31. A patient support comprising:  
a bedframe;  
20 a mattress; and  
a wheel assembly including a biaser and a wheel position holder, the wheel position holder being configured to pivotally couple the wheel to the bedframe and control pivoting movement of the wheel assembly, the biaser configured to bias the wheel into contact with a floor surface.

32. The patient support of claim 31, wherein the wheel position holder includes a cam and a cam surface.

33. The patient support of claim 32, wherein the cam surface includes a sinusoidal profile.

5 34. A caster for a bed including a frame, the caster comprising:  
a wheel configured to contact a floor; and  
a position holder configured to control the position of the wheel  
relative to the frame, the position holder being coupled to the wheel and adapted to be  
coupled to the frame, the position holder including a cam member and a cam surface,  
10 the cam surface including two pairs of recesses configured to cooperate with the cam  
to position the wheel.

35. The caster of claim 34, wherein the two pairs of recesses each have a depth, the depth of one of the two pairs deeper than the other pair of recesses.

36. The caster of claim 34, wherein the two pairs of recesses are positioned  
15 about ninety degrees apart on the cam surface.

37. The caster of claim 34, wherein the recesses are separated by four peaks, the peaks including a smooth contour.

38. A patient support comprising:  
a bedframe;  
20 a mattress; and  
a wheel assembly coupled to the bedframe and including a wheel and  
means for positioning the wheel in one of a first direction of rotation and a second  
direction of rotation relative to the frame, the first and second directions of the wheel  
separated by an angle of rotation of less than one hundred eighty degrees.

39. The patient support of claim 38, wherein the angle of rotation is about ninety degrees.

40. The patient support of claim 38, wherein the bedframe includes a longitudinal axis and the first direction of rotation of the wheel positions the wheel parallel to the longitudinal axis of the bedframe.

41. The patient support of claim 38, wherein the bedframe includes a longitudinal axis and the second direction of rotation of the wheel positions the wheel perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the bedframe.

42. The patient support of claim 38, further comprising a biasing means to bias the wheel into contact with a floor surface.

43. A patient support adapted to be connected to an external power source, the patient support comprising:

- a bedframe supported on a floor;
- a mattress supported by the bedframe;
- a plurality of wheels coupled to the bedframe;
- a brake configured to prevent the bed from moving on the floor, the brake being moveable between a braked position and an unbraked position; and
- a controller configured to activate an alarm when the brake is moved to the unbraked position when the bed is connected to the external power source.

44. The patient support of claim 43, wherein the bedframe includes a plurality of wheels configured to contact the floor.

45. The patient support of claim 43, wherein the brake includes a lever supported by the bedframe and moveable between the braked and unbraked positions by a user's foot.

46. The patient support of claim 43, wherein the alarm is an audible alarm.

47. The patient support of claim 43, wherein the brake includes a electrical contact configured to send a signal to the controller when the brake is moved from the unbraked position to the braked position.

48. A patient support comprising:

5

a frame;

a deck supported by the frame, the deck including a plurality of panels removably coupled to the deck, the panels including a plurality of apertures having upwardly facing openings;

a mattress supported by the plurality of panels; and

10

a plurality of panel holders coupled to the deck and configured to extend into the apertures to couple the plurality of deck panels to the deck.

49. The patient support of claim 48, wherein the panels are formed of a plastic material.

50. The patient support of claim 48, wherein the panel holders are  
15 configured to receive restraint straps.

51. The patient support of claim 48, wherein the panel holders extend through the apertures.

52. The patient support of claim 48, wherein the panel holders couple are sized to substantially fill the apertures to rigidly couple the deck panels to the deck

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53. A patient support comprising:

a frame;

a deck supported by the frame, the deck including a plurality of panels removably coupled to the deck and means for removably securing the plurality of deck panels to the deck; and

25

a mattress supported by the plurality of panels.



54. The patient support of claim 53, wherein the means for removably securing the plurality of deck panel to the deck includes a plurality of inverted U-shaped members coupled to the deck.

55. The patient support of claim 53, wherein the plurality of deck panels  
5 include a plurality of apertures configured to receive a portion of the deck.

56. A patient support comprising:  
a frame;  
a deck supported by the frame;  
a mattress supported by the deck;  
10 a siderail coupled to the frame and moveable between a raised position and a lowered position, the siderail and deck cooperating to define a gap therebetween; and  
a gap filler coupled to the deck and positioned under the mattress to narrow the gap.

15 57. The patient support of claim 56, wherein the gap filler is integral with the deck.

58. The patient support of claim 56, wherein the gap filler has a semi-circular profile.

59. The patient support of claim 56, wherein the gap filler is configured to  
20 fill the gap between the siderail and the deck when the siderail is in the raised position.

60. The patient support of claim 56, wherein the gap filler is positioned on the deck at an end of the siderail.

61. A patient support comprising:  
25 a frame;

a deck supported by the frame;

a mattress supported by the deck;

a siderail coupled to the frame and moveable between a raised position and a lowered position, the siderail including longitudinally spaced apart ends, one of  
5 the ends cooperating with the deck to define a gap therebetween; and  
a gap filler coupled to the deck to narrow the gap.

62. The patient support of claim 61, wherein the gap filler is positioned under the mattress.

63. The patient support of claim 61, wherein the gap filler is integral with  
10 the deck.

64. The patient support of claim 61, further comprising a second siderail being positioned adjacent to the siderail and the gap filler.

65. A patient support comprising:

a frame;

15 an articulating deck supported by the frame and moveable between an articulated orientation and a substantially coplanar orientation, the articulating deck moveable between a substantially horizontal position and a Trendelenburg position;

a mattress supported by the deck;

a plurality of actuators configured to articulate the deck between the  
20 articulated and substantially coplanar orientations, and the substantially horizontal and Trendelenburg positions;

a controller configured to control the actuators; and

a user input coupled to the controller, the user input configured to receive a single input from a user to activate the controller to articulate the deck to the  
25 substantially coplanar orientation and the Trendelenburg position.

66. The patient support of claim 65, wherein the user input is a momentary switch.

67. The patient support of claim 65, wherein the deck is simultaneously articulated to the substantially coplanar position and the Trendelenburg position when  
5 the controller is activated by the user input.

68. A patient support comprising:  
a frame;  
an articulating deck including at least a head section, a seat section, and  
a foot section, the articulating deck being moveable between a substantially flat  
10 orientation and an articulated orientation, the deck supported by the frame;  
a mattress supported by the deck;  
a first siderail coupled to the head section and being moveable between  
a raised position and a lowered position, the first siderail including upper and lower  
portions; and  
15 a second siderail coupled to the foot section adjacent to the first  
siderail, the second siderail being moveable between a raised position and a lowered  
position, the second siderail including upper and lower portions, the upper portions of  
the first siderail and the second siderail defining a first gap therebetween, the first gap  
narrowing when the deck is moved from the substantially flat orientation to the  
20 articulated orientation, the lower portions of the first siderail and the second siderail  
defining a second gap therebetween, the second gap remaining substantially constant  
as the deck is articulated between the substantially flat orientation and the articulated  
orientation.

69. The patient support of claim 68, wherein upper portion of the first  
25 siderail includes a handle portion integral within the siderail.

70. The patient support of claim 68, wherein the upper and lower portions of the first siderail are separated by a notch.

71. The patient support of claim 68, wherein the upper and lower portions of the second siderail are separated by an extended portion.

5 72. The patient support of claim 69, wherein the upper portion of the second siderail is configured to correspond to the lower portion of the first siderail when the deck is in the articulated position and the first siderail is in the raised position and the second siderail is in the lowered position.

73. The patient support of claim 68, wherein the upper portion of the  
10 second siderail is configured to correspond to the upper portion of the first siderail when the deck is in the articulated position and the first and second siderails are both in the raised position.

74. A patient support comprising:  
a frame including a head end, a foot end, and longitudinal sides  
15 extending therebetween;  
an articulating deck supported by the frame, the articulating deck being configured to move between an articulated orientation and a substantially coplanar orientation, the articulating deck including a plurality of sections, at least one of the sections being moveable about a pivot axis;

20 a mattress supported by the deck;

a first siderail coupled to one of the longitudinal sides of the plurality of sections and including a first curved portion, the first siderail moveable between a raised position and a lowered position; and

a second siderail positioned adjacent to the first siderail and including a  
25 second curved portion, the second siderail moveable between a raised and a lowered

position, the second curved portion including a radius of curvature centered about the pivot axis of the at least one of the sections.

75. The patient support of claim 74, wherein the first curved portion is centered about the radius of curvature of the pivot axis of the at least one of the  
5 section.

76. A patient support comprising:  
a frame including a head end, a foot end, and longitudinal sides  
extending therebetween;  
an articulating deck supported by the frame, the articulating deck  
10 moveable between an articulated orientation and a substantially coplanar orientation,  
the articulating deck including a head section and a foot section;  
a mattress supported by the deck;  
a first siderail coupled to one of the longitudinal sides of the head  
section, the first siderail moveable between a raised position and a lowered position;  
15 and

a second siderail positioned adjacent to the first siderail, the second  
siderail moveable between a raised position and a lowered position, the second  
siderail including an end being adjacent to the first siderail, the end including an  
upwardly facing curved portion and a downwardly facing curved portion.

20 78. The patient support of claim 76, wherein the upwardly facing curved  
portion is configured to complement an end of the first siderail adjacent to the end of  
the second siderail when the deck is in the articulated orientation, and the first siderail  
is in the raised position, and the second siderail is in the lowered position.

79. The patient support of claim 76, wherein the downwardly facing  
25 curved portion is configured to complement the end of the first siderail when the deck

is in the articulated orientation and the first and second siderails are in the raised positions.

80. A patient support comprising:

a frame including a head end, a foot end, and longitudinal sides

5 extending therebetween;

an articulating deck supported by the frame, the articulating deck moveable between an articulated orientation and a substantially coplanar orientation, the articulating deck including a head section and a foot section;

a mattress supported by the deck;

10 a first siderail coupled to one of the longitudinal sides, the first siderail moveable between a raised position and a lowered position; and

a second siderail positioned adjacent to the first siderail, the second siderail moveable between a raised position and a lowered position, the second siderail including an end being adjacent to the first siderail, the end including an

15 upwardly facing curved portion and a downwardly facing curved portion, the upwardly facing curved portion configured to complement an end of the first siderail adjacent to the end of the second siderail when the deck is in the articulated orientation, and the first siderail is in the raised position, and the second siderail is in the lowered position.

20 81. A patient support comprising:

a frame;

a deck including a plurality of deck panels, the deck panels including an opening;

a mattress supported by the deck; and

25 a restraint holder coupled to the frame and configured to extend into

the opening, the restraint holder being further configured to hold a restraint strap configured to secure a patient positioned on the mattress.

82. A patient support comprising:

a frame;

5 a deck including a plurality of deck panels, the deck panels including an opening;

a mattress supported by the deck; and

a restraint holder coupled to the frame, the restraint holder being further configured to hold a restraint strap configured to secure a patient positioned on  
10 the mattress, the restraint strap further configured to extend through the opening in the deck panel.